by Messrs. T. K. Velu Pillai, A. Hoogewerf and other members, that there is absolute necessity for infusing fresh blood into the executive branch of the Excise Department, will the Government be pleased to state the number of hands sent out from the Secretariat to the Excise and other departments and the number of hands taken to the Secretariat from the Excise and other departments from the 1st Chingam, 1099, to the 1st Dhanu, 1099?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the late Excise Commissioner, Mr. Raman Pillai, repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government the necessity for appointing fresh men from the Secretariat to the Excise Department, that, with this object, he recommended the appointment of many graduate clerks of the Huzur Secretariat as Circle Officers and Excise Inspectors, and that the Government sanctioned such recommendations?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Government find that a free exchange of officers between the Secretariat and the non-technical executive departments is not possible unless the officers are grouped and brought under the same or similar *cadre*. The matter is being considered by the Government.

(*b*) The late Excise Commissioner, Mr. N. Raman Pillai, appears to have made such proposals on two occasions and they were sanctioned by the Government.

Trivandrum P. W. Sub-Division Charge.

271. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Assistant Engineers alone are generally put in charge of the Trivandrum Sub-division?

(*b*) If so, why is a Supervisor put in charge of that Sub-division?

(*c*) Are there competent Assistant Engineers in the department who may be put in charge of Sub-divisions?

(*d*) Is it a fact that two Chief Engineers, Messrs. Bastow and Jacob, had recommended to the Government that Mr. G. V. Subrahmanya Aiya, the acting Sub-divisional Officer, Trivandrum, should not be put in charge of any Sub-division and that in pursuance of those recommendations the Government had removed him from Sub-division charge?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*) this question does not arise.

(*c*) Yes; and they are in charge of Sub-divisions now.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

Kattippanam Case.

272. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What action did the Government take in regard to the open allegations of corruption,

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[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

such as *kattippanam*, made in the Council with regard to the administration of the Excise Department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer given to Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's interpellation No. VIII on the same subject at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th July, 1921.

Continuance of Monopoly System in certain Taluks.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to continue the monopoly system for the years 1100 and 1101 in the taluks of Shertallai, Vaikam, Alangad and Parur?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Teachers' Provident Fund.

273. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the provision of a provident fund for teachers is made compulsory in the case of private schools in the Madras Presidency?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will also make it compulsory, and not optional, here also?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the interest fixed is only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. here? Will they be pleased to take action to raise it?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): With respect to the answer to part (*b*) of my question, may I know why Government cannot make it compulsory?

MR S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Director of Public Instruction is of opinion that the time is not yet ripe for the measure being made compulsory in private schools.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Has he considered the question?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The matter was referred to him and he has considered it.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know, with reference to the answer to part (*c*) of the question, why the Government cannot raise the percentage of interest?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): For financial reasons.

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